

Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve Open House
June 5, 2003 – Bellingham

Natural/Biological Resources

- Sediment changes over last 100 yrs—Nooksack sediments now go to Bellingham Bay rather than Lummi—more boulders on CP reach therefore less eelgrass/spawning substrate re-diverting Nooksack would bring back sediments

Observation of sand loss at BP pier (~ 2 feet in 15 yrs) – photos: 15 yrs of dive observation-

Small pockets of eelgrass only—more in summer; winter storms/less sediment affecting eelgrass health?

BP photos of sand levels/pile protection devices are now above sand

Birch Bay eelgrass—is not the same as historically

Point Whitehorn—3 year decline in spawning

Is CP herring distinct stock (i.e. is it an Evolutionarily Significant Unit?)

- Bull Kelp is more prevalent at Pt. Whitehorn than map shows
- UBC –
 - Fraser Plume
 - Plankton
- Pt. Whitehorn –Rock code prevalent in 1970s north of Pt. Whitehorn most productive
- Herring workshop—Pseudocalanus plumchris
- Global warming—runoff hydrologic patterns
- MS thesis-kelp + metals – Intalco
- Need bluff buffer zone
- Eagle nest on Pt. Whitehorn
- Silver Creek management plan 1989
- Aquifer data from Ecology for GSX proposal—supplemental EIS to FERC EIS (available from Barry Wenger)
- GSX noise studies—marine mammals probably ? frequency so no harm to orcas
- Stormwater effects?
- Urban growth in Birch Bay? e.g. stormwater
- Share data among agencies
 - For evaluation
 - For ongoing monitoring
- Straits herring data?

- Share info
- Extensive impact from recreational clam digging at Pt. Whitehorn—coordinate among agencies for recreational uses

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Site Evaluation Process

- Important to coordinate with local governments, MRCs, NGOs, State agencies, etc.
- Consider protecting holding areas from anchorage
- Will economics be considered in evaluation?
- Who makes the final decision? It needs to be based on facts found by Technical Advisory Committee, etc.
- Funding—is there enough to staff all 6 sites? Is there a hierarchy among those 6?
- Industrial aspects shouldn't get in the way of manageability issue—potential for natural state should supercede other considerations
- If an aquatic reserve is established on the site, the industrial entities will be more accountable